

Serial No. 10/531,219
Atty. Doc. No. 2002P14335WOUS

Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1 – 12 (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A method for removing components of a layer system forming area of a turbine component, comprising the steps of:

providing a turbine component of the type formed with an alloy substrate layer, a ceramic thermal barrier coating applied over the substrate layer and a bonding layer between the ceramic coating and the substrate layer;

performing a mechanical operation to facilitate removal of the ceramic thermal barrier coating;

providing treating the turbine component in a salt bath comprising sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide;

treating the turbine component in the salt bath by adding an oxygen donor to the salt bath so as to boost chemical attack on the bonding layer;

treating the turbine component with in a first acid bath comprising nitric acid and phosphoric acid, the combination of steps resulting in removal of the thermal barrier coating and removal of the bonding layer, ; and

adding an oxygen donor to the salt bath.

14. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein potassium hydroxide and sodium hydroxide in a mixture ratio of 1 to 1 % by volume is used for the salt bath.

15. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the turbine component is treated in a second acid bath having a different chemical composition than the first acid bathtwo different acid baths are used.

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16. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein hydrochloric acid is used as acid for a second acid bath.

17. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the turbine component is first treated in the first acid bath comprising nitric acid and phosphoric acid and then treated in the second bath comprising hydrochloric acid is used.

18. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 13, including at least one salt bath and at least one acid bath wherein an ultrasound probe is used in at least one of the baths to accelerate removal of the bonding layer. the method.

19. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the step of performing a mechanical operation includes sand-blasting, that before the treatment of the turbine component in the salt bath and/or after the treatment in the salt bath and/or after the first acid treatment and/or after a further acid treatment, the turbine component having a layer area that is to be removed is sand blasted.

20. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the step of performing a mechanical operation includes flow grinding, that before the treatment of the turbine component in the salt bath and/or after the treatment in the salt bath and/or after the first acid treatment and/or after a further acid treatment, the flow grinding of the turbine component having a layer area that is to be removed is performed.

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the oxygen donor is sodium oxide.

23. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the oxygen donor is a metal oxide.

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24. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the turbine component is watered and dried in at least one intermediate step.

25. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the turbine component is watered or dried in at least one intermediate step.

26. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the turbine component is treated with a complex-forming agent in an intermediate or final step.